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FBI - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
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**EP22 CV0047**

## PARTIES

- ## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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robocalls to Plaintiff; adds little complexity to the case.

4. Personal Jurisdiction. This Court has general personal jurisdiction over the defendants because they have repeatedly placed calls to Texas residents, and derive revenue from Texas residents, and they sell goods and services to Texas residents, including the Plaintiff.

5. Venue. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1)-(2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims—the calls and sale of goods and services directed at Texas residents, including the Plaintiff—occurred in this District and because the Plaintiff resides in this District. Residing in the Western District of Texas when he received a substantial if not every single call from the Defendants that are the subject matter of this lawsuit.

6. This Court has venue over the defendants because the calls at issue were sent by or on behalf of the above-named Defendants to the Plaintiff, a Texas resident.

**THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**  
**OF 1991, 47 U.S.C. § 227**

7. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to restrict the use of sophisticated telemarketing equipment that could target millions of consumers *en masse*. Congress found that these calls were not only a nuisance and an invasion of privacy to consumers specifically but were also a threat to interstate commerce generally. *See* S. Rep. No. 102-178, at 2-3 (1991), as reprinted in 1991 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1968, 1969-71.

8. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded voice ... to any telephone number assigned to a ... cellular telephone service.” 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

9. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to initiate any telephone call to any residential telephone

line using an artificial or prerecorded voice to deliver a message without the prior express consent of the called party, unless the call is initiated for emergency purposes, is made solely pursuant to the collection of a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States, or is exempted by rule or order” of the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”). 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B).

10. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of § 227(b). 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

11. Separately, the TCPA bans telemarketing calls without a do-not-call policy available upon demand. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(1).<sup>1</sup>

12. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of § 227(c) or a regulation promulgated thereunder. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

13. According to findings of the FCC, the agency vested by Congress with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls and can be costly and inconvenient.

14. The FCC also recognizes that “wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 18 FCC Rcd. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).

15. The FCC requires “prior express written consent” for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing robocalls to wireless numbers and residential lines. In particular:[A] consumer’s written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received clear and conspicuous disclosure of the consequences of providing

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<sup>1</sup> See Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Parts 40 to 60, at 425 (2017) (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

the requested consent, *i.e.*, that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates. In addition, the written agreement must be obtained without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.

16. *In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 27 FCC Rcd. 1830, 1844 ¶ 33 (2012) (footnote and internal quotation marks omitted). FCC regulations “generally establish that the party on whose behalf a solicitation is made bears ultimate responsibility for any violations.” *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 10 FCC Rcd. 12391, 12397 ¶ 13 (1995).

17. The FCC confirmed this principle in 2013, when it explained that “a seller ... may be held vicariously liable under federal common law principles of agency for violations of either section 227(b) or section 227(c) that are committed by third-party telemarketers.” *In the Matter of the Joint Petition Filed by Dish Network, LLC*, 28 FCC Rcd. 6574, 6574 ¶ 1 (2013).

18. Under the TCPA, a text message is a call. *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.*, 569 F.3d 946, 951 – 52 (9th Cir. 2009).

19. A corporate officer involved in the telemarketing at issue may be personally liable under the TCPA. *E.g., Jackson Five Star Catering, Inc. v. Beason*, Case No. 10-10010, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 159985, at \*10 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 8, 2013) (“[M]any courts have held that corporate actors can be individually liable for violating the TCPA where they had direct, personal participation in or personally authorized the conduct found to have violated the statute.” (internal quotation marks omitted)); *Maryland v. Universal Elections*, 787 F. Supp. 2d 408, 415 – 16 (D. Md. 2011) (“If an individual acting on behalf of a corporation could avoid individual liability,

the TCPA would lose much of its force.”).

### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

20. Plaintiff has been on the National Do-Not-Call Registry since December 2007.
21. Plaintiff received the first of at least four (4) phone calls from the Defendants on January 14, 2022. Plaintiff answered each of the phone calls and was asked questions regarding his mortgage balance, interest rate, monthly payment, taxes and income.
22. On January 14, 2022, Plaintiff received a phone call from an anonyms telemarketer who did not identify himself or the company on whose behalf he was calling soliciting Plaintiff for a mortgage refinance. The phone call came from phone number 915-805-1983.
23. On January 14, 2022 Plaintiff received a second phone call from “Charles Miller” who continued to solicit Plaintiff for mortgage refinance despite not having authorization to call Plaintiff.
24. On January 14, 2022, 12:05PM Plaintiff received an email from Charles Miller (“Miller”) using email address Charles.miller@rate.com memorializing the conversation.
25. On January 14, 2022, Plaintiff received a third phone call from (443) 219-5630, this phone number was displayed on the Miller’s email signature blog. Plaintiff answered the phone and it was “Charles” again soliciting Plaintiff for a mortgage refinance.
26. Defendant employs, contracts, or authorizes telemarketing firms to make phone calls on their behalf. .
27. Table below displays calls made to Plaintiff by Defendant:

1/14/2022	11:51 AM	915-805-1983
1/14/2022	1:09 PM	433-219-5630
1/14/2022	1:11 PM	433-219-5630
1/14/2022	2:58 PM	433-219-5630

28. Plaintiff requested an internal Do-Not-Call list (DNC) Policy from Defendant. The Defendant did not send Plaintiff a copy of the DNC.

29. Each and every call was placed while knowingly ignoring the national do-not-call registry. Each and every call was placed without training their agents/employees on the use of an internal do-not-call policy

30. Plaintiff has limited data storage capacity on his cellular telephone. Incoming telemarketing calls consumed part of this capacity.

31. No emergency necessitated the calls.

32. On information and belief, the Defendant did not train its agents who engaged in telemarketing on the existence and use of any do-not-call list.

### **INJURY, HARM, DAMAGES, and ACTUAL DAMAGES**

#### **AS A RESULT OF THE CALLS**

33. Defendants' calls harmed the Plaintiff by causing the very harm that Congress sought to prevent—a "nuisance and invasion of privacy."

34. Defendants' calls harmed the Plaintiff by trespassing upon and interfering with Plaintiff's rights and interests in Plaintiff's cellular telephone.

35. Defendants' calls harmed the Plaintiff by intruding upon Plaintiff's seclusion.

36. Plaintiff has been harmed, injured, and damages by the calls including, but not limited to: reduced device storage, reduced data plan usage, anger, frustration, invasion of privacy, and more frequent charging of my cell phone.

#### **The Plaintiff's cell phone is a residential number**

37. The calls were to the Plaintiff's cellular phone 4604 which is the Plaintiff's personal cell phone that he uses for personal, family, and household use. The Plaintiff maintains no landline

phones at his residence and has not done so for at least 15 years and primarily relies on cellular phones to communicate with friends and family. The Plaintiff also uses his cell phone for navigation purposes, sending and receiving emails, timing food when cooking, and sending and receiving text messages. The Plaintiff further has his cell phone registered in his personal name, pays the cell phone from his personal accounts, and the phone is not primarily used for any business purpose.

**Violations of the Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053**

38. The actions of the Defendants violated the Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053 by placing automated calls to a cell phone which violate 47 USC 227(b). The calls by the Defendant violated Texas law by placing calls with a pre-recorded message to a cell phone which violate 47 USC 227(c)(5) and 47 USC 227(d) and 47 USC 227(d)(3) and 47 USC 227(e).

39. The calls by the Defendants violated Texas law by spoofing the caller ID's per 47 USC 227(e) which in turn violates the Texas statute.

**I. FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

**(Telemarketing Without Mandated Safeguards, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c))**

**(Against All Defendants)**

1. Mr. Callier realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

2. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant and/or their affiliates or agents constitute

a violation of FCC regulations by making multiple telemarketing solicitations to a consumer on the national do-not-call registry within a 12-month period in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).

3. Mr. Callier is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation. 47

U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B).

## **II. SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### **(Telemarketing Without Mandated Safeguards, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d))**

#### **(Against All Defendants)**

1. Mr. Callier realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

2. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and/or their affiliates or agents constitute multiple violations of FCC regulations by making telemarketing solicitations despite lacking:

a. a written policy, available upon demand, for maintaining a do-not-call list, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(1);<sup>2</sup>

b. training for the individuals involved in the telemarketing on the existence of and use of a do-not-call list, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(2);<sup>3</sup> and,

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<sup>2</sup> See *id.* at 425 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

<sup>3</sup> See *id.* at 425 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).



c. in the solicitations, the name of the individual caller and the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(4).<sup>4</sup>

3. Mr. Callier is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B).

4. Mr. Callier is entitled to an award of up to \$1,500 in damages for each such knowing or willful violation. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

5. Mr. Callier also seeks a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants and their affiliates and agents from making telemarketing solicitations until and unless they (1) implement a do-not-call list and training thereon and (2) include the name of the individual caller and Guaranteed's name in the solicitations.

### **III. THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF:**

#### **Violations of The Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053**

1. Mr. Callier realleges and incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

2. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and/or their affiliates or agents constitute multiple violations of the **Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053**, by making non-emergency telemarketing robocalls to Mr. Callier's cellular telephone numbers without his prior express written consent in violation of 47 USC 227 et seq. The Defendant violated 47 USC 227(d) and 47 USC 227(d)(3) and 47 USC 227(e) by using an ATDS that does not comply with the technical and procedural standards under this subsection.

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<sup>4</sup> See *id.* at 425 – 26 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

3. Mr. Callier is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation. **Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053(b)**

4. Mr. Callier is entitled to an award of up to \$1,500 in damages for each such knowing or willful violation. **Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053(c).**

#### **IV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Brandon Callier prays for judgment against the defendants jointly and severally as follows:

A. Leave to amend this Complaint to name additional DOESs as they are identified and to conform to the evidence presented at trial;

B. A declaration that actions complained of herein by Defendants violate the TCPA and Texas state law;

C. An injunction enjoining Defendant and their affiliates and agents from engaging in the unlawful conduct set forth herein;

D. An award of \$1500 per call in statutory damages arising from the TCPA intentional violations jointly and severally against the corporation for 4 calls.

E. An award of \$1,500 in statutory damages arising from violations of the Texas Business and Commerce code 305.053

F. An award to Mr. Callier of damages, as allowed by law under the TCPA;

G. An award to Mr. Callier of interest, costs and attorneys' fees, as allowed by law and equity

H. Such further relief as the Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

February 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Callier', with a stylized, cursive script.

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